30th October 1931]

Motor Vehicles Taxation

Collection of motor vehicles tax.

* 282 *Q.*—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of motor vehicles tax collected during and for the first quarter of the year districtwar;

(*b*) the collecting expenses and its ratio of collection districtwar;

(*c*) the amount allotted to each of the local bodies and the Corporation of Madras;

(*d*) the ratio of such allotments to the amounts claimed by them;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the licensing authority at Madras required the owners of motor vehicles to produce registration certificates;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that failure to produce them would entail payment of Rs. 16 for a duplicate copy;

(*g*) under what rule of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act was this authorized; and

(*h*) if the Police Commissioner is acting under any other Act, whether he was authorized to exercise such powers when administering this Act and simultaneously with it?

A.—(*a*) A statement [a] is laid on the table of the House.

(*b*) Government have no information regarding the collection expenses so far incurred. It will be possible to calculate them accurately only at the end of the year.

(*c*) [a] G.O. No. 1081, L. & M., dated the 28th March 1931, showing the provisional amount allotted to each of the local bodies is placed on the table of the House. More accurate figures have been obtained and are under the consideration of Government.

(*d*) Government do not consider it necessary to work out the ratio as the figures given in the appendix to G.O. No. 1081, L. & M., dated the 28th March 1931, are only provisional and as a fresh distribution is being worked out in accordance with the provisions of section 10 (2) (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) of the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931. Only a few local bodies have made representations in the matter.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Duplicate copies of the registration certificate in the case of almost all motor vehicles except motor cycles can be got on payment of Rs. 8 being half the original fee.

(*g*) & (*h*) Under section 5 (3) (*a*) of the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931.

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"May I know if any instalments have been paid to local bodies?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Yes."

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[a] Printed as Appendix X on pages 152-156 infra.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I know whether the amount collected for the first quarter would fall very much below the expected revenue?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"Yes, to some extent."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I know what the Government propose to do to make up the deficit? Under the Act if the amount collected is less than what they anticipated, the Government would be able to give the local bodies only *pro rata*. Therefore the local bodies would be denied the amount which they were originally getting?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"The local bodies would get what is available *pro rata*."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"Was not the original estimate based on the actual collections made by the local bodies? Have not the Government failed in their expectations?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"The original estimate was based on the number of vehicles in the Presidency."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I know what it is due to?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"Due to present financial stringency."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"Is it suggested that owing to present financial stringency the number of motor vehicles has gone down?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"Is it on account of financial depression, or on account of increased taxation?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"I cannot say which."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I know if the Government anticipate any increase in future?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"I cannot say definitely."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—"May I know, if the additional registration fee is charged, whether it would add to the revenues that will be collected under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act? May I know if the officers of the City Police have taken licence under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"I cannot say."

12-15 p.m. Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"Does the amount collected go to make up the total of the tax or does it go towards the payment of officers?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"The amount is collected under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act."

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Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" Why should the Commissioner of Police take action under the Motor Vehicles Act when he is administering only the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—" Under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act a certificate under the Motor Vehicles Act has also to be produced before the licensing officer."

Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar:—" Have any cases come to the notice of the hon. the Minister of persons, especially Police officers, who have not taken a licence under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—" No, Sir."

Public Health

Work done by the Public Analyst to the Government of Madras.

* 283 *Q.*—Mr. V. T. Arasu: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the nature of the work that is being done by the Public Analyst to the Government of Madras;

(*b*) the number of municipal councils and local bodies that have sought his help till now from the time of his appointment and the nature of the help or advice that those bodies sought of him; and

(*c*) whether any fee is being collected for any such advice rendered?

A.—(*a*) A statement [a] showing the nature of the work done by the Public Analyst is placed on the table.

(*b*) Mr. Hawley has been appointed Public Analyst for the Madras Corporation, 15 municipal councils and one panchayat board. Excepting the panchayat board and four municipal councils, the other local bodies have sought his help for analysing samples of food. He has also advised local bodies on technical matters involved in sampling, by circular and, when required individually, on special points.

(*c*) Contributions at the rate of Rs. 5,000 a year from the Madras Corporation and Rs. 720 a year from each of the other local bodies are being recovered towards the pay of the Public Analyst and laboratory charges. Each municipal council or local board concerned can send to the Public Analyst for analysis free of cost 15 samples of food every month, any sample sent in excess of this number in any particular month being analysed on payment of Rs. 7 per sample. No fees are levied for advice.

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a Printed as Appendix XI on pages 156-157 infra.